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## THE IOWA BRIGADE ON SHILOH'S FIELD.

Their Unflinching Position and Its  
Effect on the Result.

"THE HORNETS' NEST."

Fierce Charges Met with Rock-  
like Immobility.

TEN TIMES THEIR FORCE.

Surrender only Significant of  
Bloody Sacrifice.

BY J. W. COTER, CO. I, 12TH IOWA, TALCOTT,  
S. D.



STATEMENT OF WHAT TOOK PLACE ON THE LEFT  
OF W. H. L. WALLACE'S LINE, AND, INCIDENTALLY,  
IN THE ADJACENT DIVISIONS.

What I relate of our own brigade—the Iowa Brigade—composed of the 2d, 7th, 12th, and 14th Iowa, commanded by Gen. James M. Tuttle, will be from my own observation; in regard to other divisions, I will give names of authorities as I progress.

Our division (Smith's), at the time under the command of Gen. W. H. L. Wallace, was encamped nearest the steamboat landing of any of the divisions at Pittsburg Landing, where we had been for about three weeks when the



A small body of cavalry, who had been encamped near the 12th Iowa on the bluff overlooking the wet bottom-land at its base and the Tennessee River beyond, were making preparations to move. We learned from them that they were under orders to

go to the front that night (Friday), as a few rebels had been hovering around the outposts, and it was thought a large body of rebels was near. This was the first information we had—I speak of the rank and file—that there was any prospect of a fight until we advanced upon Corinth, as we all expected ultimately to do.

Sunday, April 6, came, as bright and beautiful a Sabbath morning as one ever sees; the peach-trees were in full bloom, and the woodland gave forth in the sunshine the odors of Spring. Certainly there was nothing in Nature foreshadowing the mighty conflict that before night should cause the earth to tremble in the efforts of one army to overcome another.

We had just had guard-mounting, and had marched to the guard-tent (I was on camp-guard), when we heard the sounds of heavy musketry-coming from the front. At once everything was changed; the long roll was beaten; the regiments fell in, with one day's rations, and we were off for the front.

We took our position along the Purdy road, to the left of McClernand's Division, and separated from it by a deep but narrow ravine filled with thick brush; our left resting on the Purdy road near its intersection with the lower Corinth road.

The 8th Iowa, of Sweeney's Brigade, was placed to the left of Tuttle's Brigade, and joined the right of Prentiss's Division; the five Iowa regiments being stationed in the following order, beginning at the right: the 2d, 7th, 12th, 14th, and 8th. The junction of the two divisions—Wallace's and Prentiss's—formed an angle projecting to the front.

Gen. Prentiss in person put Hickenlooper's battery on a slight rise in the ground to the rear of these two roads. Gen. Grant, visiting Prentiss, approved this arrangement, and ordered him to hold the position.

AT ALL HAZARDS.

Gen. Force, in "From Fort Henry to Corinth," from which we quote, says: "Wallace's line was barely formed when, at 10 o'clock, Gladden's Brigade, now commanded by Col. Adams, moved against Prentiss. Advancing slowly up the slight ascent through impeding thickets against an unseen foe, it encountered a blaze of fire from the summit, filtered, wavered, hesitated, retreated, and withdrew out of range. A. P. Stewart led his brigade against Wallace's front, was driven back, returned to the assault, and was again driven back, but still rallied, and moved once more in vain, to be again sent



PRISONERS.

in retreat. \* \* \* The Confederates gave this fatal slope the name 'The Hornets' Nest.'

Gen. Gibson made four successive charges, and was four times repulsed. Col. Allen, of the 4th La., one of Gibson's regiments, made still another charge, only to be more severely handled than before. Hindman's two brigades, who had been in McClernand's front, were moved to the front of Wallace. Flushed with victory, they advanced with confidence. They also were driven back, and Hindman wounded.

"Led by A. P. Stewart, they again rushed against the fatal fire, only to be shattered to fragments that recoiled, to remain out of the contest for the rest of the day."

Hickenlooper's guns had done good service from the position assigned them by Gen. Prentiss, all day long firing over the heads of Wallace's men when they were attacked, and, by changing front, assisting in repelling the attacks upon Prentiss. The rebels determined to destroy the battery. Gen. Ruggles names 11 batteries that he planned to concentrate their fire on these four guns. But Hickenlooper withdrew from his position, saved his guns, and later in the day reported to Sherman for duty. This artillery fire was followed by charges by the Crescent Regiment of Louisiana and Anderson's Brigade, but each were, in turn, driven back.

I seriously doubt that history records a similar circumstance of any other troops. Without any intrenchments, or other than natural protection, 100 repulsed 12 successive charges, and the two last after the ground had been swept by a storm of shot and shell from the concentrated fire of 11 batteries. (We were directly in front of Hickenlooper.) Sherman and McClernand

HAD BEEN FORCED BACK

by Gen. Beauregard, who established Headquarters at Shiloh Church, and by McClernand swinging his left flank to the rear the gap already existing between his division and Wallace's was enlarged, and the enemy thus enabled to reach Wallace's rear. The scene of heavy fighting was then transferred to our left, commanded by Gen. Hurlbut, who was assaulted by Gen. Bragg's troops, and at 4:30 he was compelled to withdraw, leaving Prentiss's left in air. Bragg then pushed his troops through this opening thus made, turned Prentiss's left flank, and reached the rear of Prentiss and Wallace.

At 5 o'clock, or perhaps a little later, an officer of the 12th Iowa went to the right to see how the 2d and 7th Iowa were getting along, and soon came back and reported that they had gone. They were not seen to leave the line, by reason of a clump of brush that cut off the view in that direction. When this was discovered, as the right of the 12th Iowa was without support, while there was no enemy in sight to the front, that regiment, with the 14th Iowa and 8th Iowa, together with the regiments from Prentiss's

Division who had not escaped when his flank was turned, fell back from the position they had occupied since before 10 o'clock, and where they had won such pronounced victories, over the elevation which had been occupied by Hickenlooper's battery all day.

There they discovered Bragg's troops pushing toward the Landing and trying to effect a junction with Beauregard's troops, who were coming through the gap to the left of McClernand.

We at once attacked Bragg's column, fighting to the rear across a shallow ravine. At first the line was driven back, but a second line came up on the double-quick beyond and higher up the side of the ravine. The first line rallied; a third line still further up the hill-side made it a hopeless task to try to cut our way out on that side. We moved by the left flank—as we were faced to the rear—where we found and attacked Beauregard's troops he had pushed through the gap as before mentioned.

These troops soon made a junction with those of Bragg, and we were cut off from the

main army, which we could see reforming their lines between our position and the river.

After a vain effort to cut our way out, and receiving the

FIRE FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

for half an hour or more, we surrendered. Gen. Grant gives the number of prisoners taken as 2,200. Gen. Force the same. My own recollection is that the rebels counted while we were at Pea Ridge en route for Corinth, 2,315.

Immediately after the surrender—which took place between 5:30 and 6 o'clock—Brig. Gen. Slaughter, of the rebel army, came among the prisoners, inquiring for officers of the "old army," meaning the Regular Army. He failed to recognize the names of Coles, Woods and Shaw, of the 12th and 14th Iowa, respectively.

He then stated to the prisoners that he thought Gen. Beauregard had made a great mistake; that it had taken 40,000 men two hours to effect the capture, and that he (Gen. Beauregard) ought not to have paid any attention to that part of the Union army surrounded, but should have pushed forward and prevented Grant from reform-

## NAVAL SKETCHES.

Some of the Most Effective Federal  
Vessels in the Civil War.

NEW IRONSIDES.

A Narrative of Her Short but  
Brilliant Career.

ONE OF HER TYPE.

Never Conquered, She Ended  
Her Days in a Halo of Flame.

BY WILLIAM SIMMONS, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FOR the subject of our present sketch we have chosen the ironclad steam frigate New Ironsides, whose services during her short but brilliant career stand out prominently among the records of our ships of the late war. She was the only vessel of her type in our navy, if we except the ironclad Dunderberg, which was built somewhat after the model of the Ironsides, and which, had she been constructed and completed earlier in the war, might have successfully disputed the honors of superiority with the subject of this sketch.

The Dunderberg was still in an incomplete state when the war closed, and for several months lay at the foot of Jackson street, East River, New York, where she exhibited her formidable character to crowds of people who came daily to get a glimpse of her ugly and terror-inspiring form. Our Government having no use for her at the close of the war, sold her to the French Government.

The New Ironsides was built in the shipyard of Cramp & Sons, in Philadelphia, Pa., and was launched in the Summer of 1862. She was bark-rigged, and her dimensions were as follows: Length, 230 feet; breadth of beam, 56 feet; tonnage, about 3,500; draft of water, 15 feet, which was

sources state that no vessel in the fleet was so much dreaded as the Ironsides; for when she was seen approaching, and dropped her anchor abreast of the fort, it was a signal to go to cover. In the first stage of the siege the rebel gunners bravely endeavored to stand to their guns during the engagement, but they soon found it utterly impossible to remain in their places, for the terrific broadsides from brave "Paddy" Rowan's ship made it so hot for them that they were driven again and again into their bomb-proofs. In fact, the rebels admitted that they feared the Ironsides more than the whole fleet of monitors combined. They made several attempts to

BLOW HER UP

with torpedoes, and she narrowly escaped such a disaster on three different occasions. During the attack on Fort Sumter on April 7 she lay for an hour directly over a submarine torpedo containing a ton of powder. This huge marine monster was connected by wire with an electric battery on shore. Fortunately for the Ironsides, the wire was in some way injured, which prevented an explosion; but had the rebels succeeded in their murderous design, the loss of life would have been awful.

Six months later, on the 5th of October, the enemy made another attempt to blow up the ship. On this occasion a boat with a boom extending 10 feet beyond the bow, and to the further end of which a torpedo was attached, was used. The boat, which was in charge of a Capt. Glassell, succeeded in passing our picket-boats, and made directly for the Ironsides, which was anchored in the main ship channel off Morris Island. The boat, which was named David, and shaped somewhat like a cigar, made its appearance at about 9 o'clock p. m. It approached the ship until within 50 yards,

REMARKABLY LIGHT

for a ship of her weight.

In favorable weather she attained a speed of six knots per hour under steam and sail. Her armament consisted of 16 11-inch smoothbore guns, and two 150-pounder Parrott rifles, all in broadside on a single deck. Her inclined sides were protected by iron plates to a thickness of four inches, backed by 21 inches of solid oak, while her bow and stern were left unprotected. Her port-shutters were also of iron, and four inches in thickness. The exact size of her crew is not known to the writer, but she had a complement of something over 300 officers and men.

The ship was named in honor of the famous frigate Constitution, familiarly known as Old Ironsides. Having received her equipments and been put in commission, the New Ironsides sailed for Hampton Roads, where she remained several months, and then sailed for Charleston, S. C.

It was after her arrival off the bar of the latter port that the writer obtained his first sight of her. She had been stripped of her rigging and spars, leaving nothing visible above water but her huge black hull, surmounted by a low, thick smokestack, rolling and plunging in the rough sea, and by no means handsome from a sailor's point of view, but what she lacked in beauty she more than made up in her awe-inspiring appearance and fighting qualities.

In the memorable attack upon Fort Sumter on the 7th of April, 1863, by the monitor fleet, under command of Admiral Du Pont, the Ironsides, Capt. Thomas Turner commanding, did not take a very active part, owing to her sailing with some of the

Royal Sharpness.

William the Fourth of England seemed in a momentary dilemma one day when, at table with several officers, he ordered one of the waiters to "Take away that marine there," pointing to an empty bottle. "Your Majesty," inquired a Colonel of marines, "do you compare an empty bottle to a member of our branch of the service?" "Yes," replied the monarch, as if a sudden thought had struck him, "I mean to say it has done its duty once, and is ready to do it again."

Vocal Ignorance.

[Indianapolis Journal.]

"I have seen some pretty ignorant people among the Summer boarders my wife takes every year," said old Mr. Jason, "but they ain't never none of them come up to the young woman that wanted to know if apple butter was made from feedin' apples to the cows."

monitors. She fired but a few shots, and although the monitors were struck by the enemy's shot many times, the Ironsides received no hits on that occasion.



## THE REFUSE OF THE FLEET

caused a change in the chief command of the South Atlantic Squadron; Rear-Admiral John A. Dahlgren succeeding Admiral Du Pont. Admiral Foote was first selected to take the place of Du Pont, but dying before reaching his post of duty, Admiral Dahlgren was thereupon chosen to take Foote's place. With the change of the Commander-in-Chief of the squadron, changes of commanders of several of the vessels of the fleet also took place, among which was Capt. Turner, of the Ironsides, Capt. S. C. Rowan being his successor. It was while under the command of Capt. Rowan (better known as "Paddy" Rowan) that the Ironsides gained her great reputation as a fighting ship.

During the siege of Fort Wagner, which lasted 55 days, the Ironsides was under fire 18 different times, during which she fired upwards of 4,500 shots, and received 165 hits, none of which did her any material damage. Her attacks were mostly against Fort Wagner, which she silenced at her will. Information obtained from Confederate



which in most steamships is amidships on the starboard side, and just below the water-line, was on the portside; for had it been on the starboard side, and the manager of the torpedo had succeeded in inserting it into the outboard delivery, which was no doubt his intention, the result of the explosion would have been awful, indeed.

The wear and tear incidental to the hard knocks she had received during her many engagements with the

FORMIDABLE FORTS

Wagner, Sumter, Moultrie, and other surrounding batteries put her somewhat out of order, and the Admiral concluded to send her North for repairs. It was some time after her torpedo experience that she left the scenes where for a year she had been a terror to the enemy, and sailed for the Navy-yard, Philadelphia, Pa., where she remained for several months, during which she was overhauled and the necessary repairs made. Those of her crew whose terms of enlistment had expired were paid off and discharged and their places filled by new recruits, among which were a number known as "whitewashed rebels"—a term applied to men who had been in the rebel service, and, having been made prisoners, took the oath of allegiance and then enlisted in the service of Uncle Sam.

In October, 1864, the Ironsides, having completed her repairs, sailed for Hampton Roads, Va., to join an expedition then organizing for an attack upon some point on the North Carolina coast, and Fort Fisher, guarding the entrance to Wilmington, soon proved to be the object aimed at.

Soon after her arrival in Hampton Roads the Ironsides proceeded up to the Norfolk Navy-yard, where she was put in fighting trim. All her top-hamper was taken down, leaving nothing but her lower masts standing. To protect the ship from a plunging fire, upwards of 2,000 bags were filled with sand and placed upon the spar-deck, after which the ship dropped down to Fort Norfolk, where she filled up with ammunition and coal, and then returned to the Roads to await further orders.

The orders to sail at last came, and on the morning of Dec. 13 the fleet steamed out of the Roads and on the following day arrived off Beaufort, where the large ships anchored, the smaller ones and monitors going inside. The fleet remained four days off Beaufort, when it again got under way, and crossing Ochsley Bay came to anchor off New Inlet. Another week passed by, during which

MUCH HEAVY WEATHER

was experienced.

On the morning of the 24th inst., the rough sea having gone down, leaving the water comparatively smooth, the signal to "get under way and prepare for action" was made, in obedience to which the fleet steamed in, led by the Ironsides, and each vessel anchored in its allotted position off the fort.

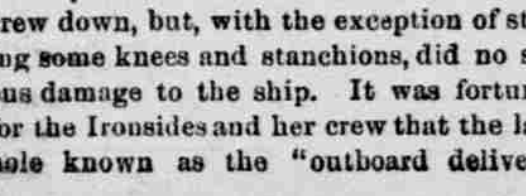
The Ironsides, now under the command of Commodore Wm. Radford—she having succeeded Capt. Rowan sometime previously—opened fire at about noon, and continued it until the signal to retire was made at sundown. The fleet now moved beyond range and anchored for the night.

During this day's bombardment the ship was struck a number of times. Her rail was cut in several places, while several shot came on board and went plowing around among the sand-bags on the spar-deck. A 10-inch shot entered the bow, and, going down into the sick-bay and dispensary, smashed things up generally.

The next day, Christmas, fire was again opened at about 10 o'clock, and continued until about dark, after which all the wooden vessels retired out of range and anchored for the night, while the Ironsides and monitors remained in their positions. On the

next day the fire was not renewed nor on the day following, but on the 28th inst. the fleet got under way and returned to its old anchorage off Beaufort; and thus ended the first bombardment of Fort Fisher.

During the night following the first day's bombardment the crew of the Ironsides was treated to another torpedo-boat scare, but after the crew had been called to quarters it proved to be a false alarm; the torpedo-boat turned out to be an up-set boat, which came drifting down toward the ship bottom up; so the tired men returned to their hammocks to seek their much-needed rest.



## THE SECOND ATTACK UPON FORT FISHER

commenced early in the morning of Jan. 13. Again the Ironsides led the fleet into action, and on reaching a point directly abreast of the main works—distance about, or something over, half a mile—anchored and opened her terrific broadsides upon the fort, keeping it up until night began to spread its dark mantle over

THE AWFUL SCENE.

On the following morning, at about 8 o'clock, the bombardment recommenced, under cover of which the troops under command of Gen. Terry and a force of 2,000 sailors and marines were landed. Every vessel of the fleet, with the exception of the Ironsides and monitors and a few small gun-boats, furnished its quota for the assaulting party. The assault began at about 3 o'clock p. m., and the sanguinary fight continued until 10 o'clock, when the rattle of musketry ceased, and cheer upon cheer came rolling over the water, which told the story of victory for the brave soldiers, sailors and marines. The Ironsides ceased firing at dusk, as the gun-division officers could no longer distinguish friend from foe.

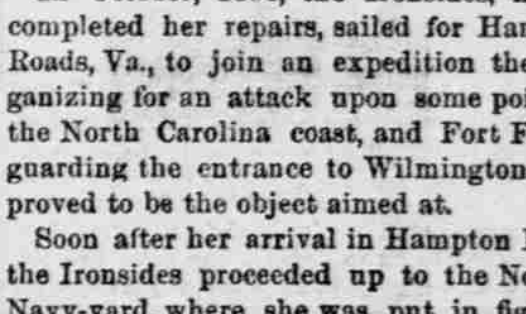
Fort Fisher, the impregnable rebel Malakoff, had fallen; Wilmington, the great port of the blockade-runners, had been effectually closed up, and "Secession" at last completely isolated.

Well might the brave Admiral Porter and the gallant Gen. Terry, and the men under them, feel proud of the great victory they had won and the grand results that followed. The country owes them a debt of gratitude which it can never repay.

May the Government remember the survivors, and the widows and orphans of those who sacrificed their lives that it might live. The Ironsides fought her last fight at Fort Fisher, but not yet rendered her last service; for shortly after the fall of Fisher she returned to Hampton Roads, and on the strength of a report to the effect that the enemy's rams at Richmond were about to make a raid, or, to put it in plain English, to make

THEIR LAST KICK

in the last ditch, the Ironsides was ordered up to City Point to give the rebel fleet a



warm reception should they show their noses below Fort Darling.

She left Hampton Roads with two powerful tugs under each quarter to assist her, and began to push her way up the James as far as Bermuda Hundred. Here she remained until Johnny Reb fell into the last ditch and "threw up the sponge." The rams, instead of coming down the James, went up into the air in smoke, while the crew, under the command of the notorious pirate Semmes of the Alabama, made a raid upon an old locomotive and a train of baggage-cars in Richmond, and took possession by "boarding," and then drove after the flying rebel Government, until brought up short by Grant at Appomattox.

The war being now terminated, the Ironsides' services ended. She was put out of commission and sent to League Island, on the Delaware, and laid up. Two years later she was destroyed by fire, and so ended her eventful existence.

SOLDIERS.

BY COL. JOHN A. JOYCE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Our ranks are growing thinner  
Every year,  
And death is still a winner  
Every year;  
Yet we still must stick together  
Like the toughest kind of leather,  
And in any kind of weather,  
Every year.

Our comrades have departed  
Every year,  
And left us broken-hearted  
Every year;  
But their spirits still greet us,  
And they constantly entreat us  
To come, that they may meet us,  
Every year.

We are growing old and lonely  
Every year,  
We have recollections only  
Every year;  
That we lived for this grand Nation  
On many a field and station,  
And with any kind of ration,  
Every year.

Many people may forget us  
Every year,  
And our enemies may fret us  
Every year;  
Yet, while onward we are drifting,  
Our souls with hope are lifting,  
To heavenly scenes still shifting,  
Every year.

So we still must do our duty  
Every year,  
And incline to Love and Beauty  
Every year;  
While the flag that waves above us,  
And the little ones that love us,  
Shall cherish and bewail us  
Every year.

In the Maytime of the flowers,  
Every year;  
We shall live in golden hours  
Every year,  
And our deeds be sung in story  
Down the ages and growing hoary,  
With a blaze of living glory,  
Every year.

Baby Slow to Learn,  
[New York Weekly.]

Young Mother (to herself): "I don't see why it is that baby doesn't talk better. He's very backward."

Same Mother (five minutes afterward): "Diddee ltee toooosie wookiee wakem up? Zee tummin' little pettio, so he was."

